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The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year 1918 was held in its offices at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., on Friday, May 10, 1918.

The following members were present:

Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Herbert Adams;

Mr. Charles A. Platt;

Mr. J. Alden Weir;

Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall;

Mr. John Russell Pope;

Colonel C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer

of the Commission was present throughout the meeting.

The Commission was called to order at 9.45 A. M. and immediately proceeded to the business before them. Mr. Olmsted presided.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the previous commission meeting held on March 1, 1918, and of the committee meeting held in New York City on April 11th, were approved.

2. LETTER FROM GENERAL WM. W. HARTS, U. S. A., FORMER SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION: Colonel Ridley read to the members a letter he had received from Brigadier-General Harts in acknowledgment and appreciation of the resolution adopted by the Commission at the March first meeting. The members expressed much pleasure at hearing from General Harts.

3. DESIGN FOR MONUMENT BY VINCENZO BRANCIFORTE, SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE: A letter of March 5th, from Vincenzo Branciforte of 311 East 109th street, New York City, to the Department of State offering to donate a small monument to the United States Government and submitting three photographic views thereof was first considered. While the Commission appreciated the sentiment and feeling which prompted the offer, the monument was

so utterly lacking in artistic merit that they advised that it be not accepted. (See Exhibit A.)

4. CLAY MODEL OF EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF GENERAL GRANT: Colonel Ridley, on behalf of the Grant Memorial Commission, informed the Commission that the equestrian statue of General Grant is finished in clay and ready for their inspection at the studio of the sculptor, Henry M. Shrady, Elmsford, New York. Mr. Adams was appointed a committee with power to inspect this model, and in doing so to associate with himself any member or members of the Commission for consultation. The inspection was made by Mr. Adams on Tuesday, May 14th, accompanied by Colonel Ridley as executive officer of the Grant Memorial Commission. Approval of the clay model was recommended.

5. REDUCTION IN SIZE OF THE LINCOLN STATUE COMPOSITION IN FRONT OF THE OLD CITY HALL: Colonel Ridley, as Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted blue-prints showing studies made with a view of reducing the height of the existing statue of Lincoln in front of the Old City Hall by the substitution of a shorter pedestal, and also moving the entire composition back off the sidewalk line. After some discussion and an inspection later in the day, the Commission advised Colonel Ridley that the whole composition should either be removed altogether or left as it stands. This suggestion was based upon their conclusion that both statue and column were not works of art, and also that a reduction in height of the statue might be made impracticable by probable technical artistic adjustments in placing such a statue at such a height. (See P. B. & G. letter file 41/361-364.)

6. DESIGN FOR A PROPOSED MUNICIPAL LODGING HOUSE, WATER TOWER FOR MUNICIPAL FISH MARKET, AND POLICE STATION AT 17th AND R. I. AVE., N.E.: Mr. Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect of the District of Columbia, by direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, appeared before the Commission at 10 o'clock on designs for a police station proposed to be

so utterly lacking in artistic merit that they advised that it be not accepted. (See Exhibit A.)

4. CLAY MODEL OF EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF GENERAL GRANT: Colonel

Ridley, on behalf of the Grant Memorial Commission, informed the Commission that the equestrian statue of General Grant is finished in clay and ready for their inspection at the studio of the sculptor, Henry M. Shady, Elmwood, New York. Mr. Adams was appointed a committee with power to inspect this model, and in doing so to associate with himself any member or members of the Commission for consultation. The inspection was made by Mr. Adams on Tuesday, May 14th, accompanied by Colonel Ridley as executive officer of the Grant Memorial Commission. Approval of the clay model was recommended.

5. REDUCTION IN SIZE OF THE LINCOLN STATUE COMPOSITION IN FRONT

OF THE OLD CITY HALL: Colonel Ridley, as Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted blue-prints showing studies made with a view of reducing the height of the existing statue of Lincoln in front of the Old City Hall by the substitution of a shorter pedestal, and also moving the entire composition back off the sidewalk line. After some discussion and an inspection later in the day, the Commission advised Colonel Ridley that the whole composition should either be removed altogether or left as it stands. This suggestion was based upon their conclusion that both statue and column were not works of art, and also that a reduction in height of the statue might be made imperceptible by proper technical artistic adjustments in placing such a statue as such a height. (See P. E. C. letter file 41/351-354.)

6. DESIGN FOR A PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDING HOUSE, WATER TOWER

FOR MUNICIPAL HIGH MARKET, AND POLICE STATION AT 17TH AND N. E. ST. Mr. Snowden Ashford, Municipal Architect of the District of Columbia, in direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, suggested before the Commission at 10 o'clock on design for a police station proposed to be

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located at the northeast corner of 17th and R. I. Ave., N. E. near Langdon, -
a Municipal Lodging House to be erected on Louisiana Avenue between 5th and
6th streets, N. W., and a water tower proposed in connection with the Municipal
Fish Market now being erected on Water street, S. W. In discussing the design
for the police station, Mr. Ashford submitted an alternative scheme on tracings in
which the front elevation had been modified. ~~At~~ ^{after} an inspection ^{of the site} later in the day
the Commission approved the alternative design as shown on the tracings, but
urged that, on account of the angular relation of the building to Rhode Island
avenue, it be kept back of the building line as far as practicable instead of
permitting the corner to project beyond the building line.

The design for the Municipal Lodging House was approved with the
suggestion that a simple arch treatment similar to that of the window arches,
providing a fan-light over the door, be substituted for the entrance treatment
shown. The Commission felt this too strongly emphasized in view of the fact
that the requirements of the plan throw the entrance off center of an otherwise
symmetrical facade.

The proposed water tower at the Municipal Fish Market was not approved.
The members felt that the general effect of a tower of the size and in the loca-
tion proposed would be seriously detrimental to the appearance of the building
and of the water front. If it can be made possible to eliminate the tower, as
by the use of a pressure tank, or by the use of larger direct-acting pumps, it
was strongly recommended that no tower be built. On the other hand it was urged,
however, that if it should be found wholly impracticable to avoid a tower they
believed that it would be better to place it on the north side of the central
runway instead of on the south side, on the ground that it would look better to
have it frankly and distinctly away from the axis of the building than to have
it very slightly off axis as proposed. Should it be decided that the tower
must be erected, the District of Commissioners were informed that the Commission

would be glad to discuss the details of the design further with the Municipal Architect. (See exhibit B.)

7. THE MEADE MEMORIAL: Mr. Frank Miles Day, the professional advisor of the Meade Memorial Commission, had informed the Commission that Mr. Charles Grafly, the sculptor working on the Meade memorial, had prepared a design in his studio which he would like to informally show the Commission in the hope that the idea might be acceptable. Mr. Kendall, Mr. Platt, Mr. Weir, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Pope, accompanied by Colonel Ridley and Mr. Cammerer, inspected this model at his studio on the afternoon of Thursday, May 9. Besides Mr. Grafly, Mr. Frank Miles Day, the professional advisor, and Mr. Grant Simon, architect for the Meade Memorial Commission, Mr. John W. Frazier, secretary of the Pennsylvania Commission, Mr. John B. Patrick of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Mr. Isaac R. Pennypacker, two members of the Commission, also were present. Photographs of the model inspected and also of another study by Mr. Simon are in the files. During the meeting at Mr. Grafly's studio, Mr. Grafly stated that Mr. Frazier had some objections to the design represented in the model, and he would be glad to hear from Mr. Frazier thenⁿ. Mr. Frazier, however, did not avail himself of the opportunity, despite several reminders, and left without further comment than that they had put the matter in the hands of the art commission and he was willing to abide by it.

The members discussed the designs for some time and later prepared a draft of a reply to the effect that they felt that the scheme which was primarily sculpture, (Mr. Grafly's) while showing itself a distinguished work of art as a small model, would not be successful as a monument in bronze developed to a heroic scale. The other project shown in the drawing (by Mr. Simon) they felt possessed no material improvement over the designs previously submitted.

Later at an informal meeting in New York City on the morning of May 14, at which Mr. Adams, Mr. Platt, Mr. Pope, Mr. Weir, Mr. Kendall, Colonel Ridley

would be glad to discuss the details of the design further with the Municipal

Architect. (See exhibit P.)

V. THE NEEDS MEMORIAL: Mr. Frank Miles Day, the professional adviser

of the Needs Memorial Commission, had informed the Commission that Mr. Charles

Grady, the sculptor working on the Needs memorial, had prepared a design in

his studio which he would like to informally show the Commission in the hope

that the idea might be acceptable. Mr. Randall, Mr. Platt, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Adams,

and Mr. Pope, accompanied by Colonel Edgely and Mr. Cummings, inspected this

model at his studio on the afternoon of Thursday, May 9. Besides Mr. Grady,

Mr. Frank Miles Day, the professional adviser, and Mr. Grant Simon, architect

for the Needs Memorial Commission, Mr. John W. Francis, secretary of the Pennsylvania

Antiquarian Society, Mr. John E. Patrick of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Mr. Isaac

R. Pennington, two members of the Commission, also were present. Photographs

of the model inspected and also of another study by Mr. Simon are in the files.

During the meeting at Mr. Grady's studio, Mr. Grady stated that Mr. Francis

had some objections to the design represented in the model, and he would be glad

to hear from Mr. Francis. Mr. Francis, however, did not avail himself of the

opportunity, despite several reminders, and left without further comment than that

they had put the matter in the hands of the art commission and he was willing to

abide by it.

The members discussed the design for some time and later prepared a

draft of a reply to the effect that they felt that the scheme which was primarily

sculpture, (Mr. Grady's) while showing itself a distinguished work of art as a

small model, would not be successful as a monument in bronze developed to a heroic

scale. The other project shown in the drawing (by Mr. Simon) they felt possessed

no material improvement over the design previously submitted.

Later at an informal meeting in New York City on the morning of May 14,

at which Mr. Adams, Mr. Platt, Mr. Pope, Mr. Weiss, Mr. Randall, Colonel Edgely

and Mr. Cammerer were present, Mr. Adams said that he had a personal talk during the morning with Mr. Grafly and had communicated to him the sense of the proposed report of the Commission. After the ensuing discussion the members requested Mr. Adams to ask Mr. Grafly whether, with his understanding of the Commission's criticism of his small sketch model, he wished to give it further study in order to meet those criticisms and endeavor to make something acceptable out of it; and, if that would be the case, whether he would like to have the proposed report held up pending his further study of the problem. The draft decided upon in case the report is to be made on the model inspected is as follows:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts visited Mr. Grafly's studio on May 9th and inspected the two schemes for the Meade memorial informally submitted to them.

They felt that the one which was primarily sculpture, while, showing itself of a distinguished work of art as a small model, would not be successful as a monument in bronze developed to a heroic scale.

The other project shown in a drawing they felt possessed no material improvement over the designs previously submitted.

(Mr. Adams later got in touch with Mr. Grafly, who wanted an opportunity to restudy the model. The report therefore was held in abeyance.)

8. LAKE MEIGS PROJECT: During the morning the Commission acquainted themselves with ~~sketches~~ stretches of the Potomac River from the Chain Bridge to Cabin John Bridge by a personal inspection in order to secure an understanding of the Meigs Lake project, (see House of Representatives Doc. 1400, 62d Congress, 3rd session.) and on the return trip inspected the Lincoln statue in front of the Old City Hall and the site for the Municipal Lodging House. After a short interval for lunch, and a continued discussion of the Meade Memorial and other matters, Mr. Olmsted, Mr. Platt, and Mr. Pope, accompanied Colonel Ridley in the afternoon and inspected the work in progress at Meridian Hill; and, dropping

Mr. Platt at the Union station en route, inspected the proposed site for the police station at 17th and Rhode Island Avenue, N. E.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Commission adjourned at 3.30 P. M. subject to the call of the Chairman.

Approved: _____

Chairman.

Colonel, USA.,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

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C O P Y

May 11, 1918.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts have inspected the three photographs transmitted by endorsement from your Department on March 26th last, which show a small monument, in a glass case, that the designer and creator, Vincenzo Branciforte of 311 East 109th street, New York City, desires to donate to the United States.

While the sentiments and feelings which prompted the construction of the monument and the offer of its donation to the United States must be appreciated, the monument is so lacking in artistic merit that the Commission advise that it be not accepted.

Respectfully,
(Signed) C. S. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

ABC:MG.

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT B

May 11, 1918.

Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts have inspected the three photographs transmitted by endorsement from your Department on March 28th last, which show a small monument, in a glass case, that the designer and creator, Vincenzo Vannelli of 211 West 109th Street, New York City, desires to donate to the United States.

While the sentiments and feelings which prompted the construction of the monument and the offer of its donation to the United States must be appreciated, the monument is so lacking in artistic merit that the Commission advise that it be not accepted.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. Ridley,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

ABO:MD.

C O P Y

will be glad to discuss the details of the design with the Municipal Architect. 118

By direction of the Commission

May 11, 1918.

(Signed) C. S. Bailey,

Dear Sirs:

At their meeting held yesterday, the Commission of Fine Arts, in conference with the Municipal Architect, gave careful consideration to the plans and designs for a police station, a municipal lodging house, and the water tower in connection with the Municipal Fish Market.

The design for the Police station, as shown on the tracings submitted to the Commission by the Municipal Architect, is approved. On account of the angular relation of the building to Rhode Island Avenue, however, it is strongly urged that instead of permitting the corner to project beyond the building line it be kept back of the building line as far as practicable.

The design for the Municipal Lodging House is approved except as to the treatment of the entrance, which the Commission believe to be much too strongly emphasized in view of the fact that the requirements of the plan throw the entrance off center of an otherwise symmetrical facade. A simple arch treatment, similar to that of the window arches providing a fan-light over the door, would probably solve the problem satisfactorily.

The proposed water tower at the Municipal Fish Market is not approved. It is the opinion of the Commission that the general effect of a tower of the size and in the location proposed would be seriously detrimental to the appearance of the building and of the water front. If it can be made possible to eliminate the tower, as by the use of a pressure tank, or by the use of larger direct-acting pumps, it is strongly recommended that no tower be built. The reduction in first cost through the elimination of the tower would apparently, on economic grounds alone, offset and justify a considerable increase in pumping cost quite apart from the artistic advantage. If it shall be found wholly impracticable to avoid a tower the Commission believe that it would be better to place it on the north side of the central runway instead of the south side, on the ground that it would look better to have it frankly and distinctly away from the axis of the building than to have it very slightly off axis as proposed. If a tower must be erected the members of the Commission

EXHIBIT B.

May 11, 1918.

Dear Sirs:

At their meeting held yesterday, the Commission of Fine Arts, in conference with the Municipal Architect, gave careful consideration to the plans and designs for a police station, a municipal lodging house, and the water tower in connection with the Municipal Fish Market.

The design for the Police station, as shown on the tracings submitted to the Commission by the Municipal Architect, is approved. On account of the angular relation of the building to Rhode Island Avenue, however, it is strongly urged that instead of permitting the corner to project beyond the building line it be kept back of the building line as far as practicable.

The design for the Municipal Lodging House is approved except as to the treatment of the entrance, which the Commission believe to be much too strongly emphasized in view of the fact that the requirements of the plan throw the entrance off center of an otherwise symmetrical facade. A simple arch treatment, similar to that of the window arches providing a fan-light over the door, would probably solve the problem satisfactorily.

The proposed water tower at the Municipal Fish Market is not approved. It is the opinion of the Commission that the general effect of a tower of the size and in the location proposed would be seriously detrimental to the appearance of the building and of the water front. It can be made possible to eliminate the tower, as by the use of a pressure tank, or by the use of larger direct-acting pumps, it is strongly recommended that no tower be built. The reduction in first cost through the elimination of the tower would apparently, on economic grounds alone, offset and justify a considerable increase in pumping cost quite apart from the artistic advantage. It is shall be found wholly impracticable to avoid a tower the Commission believe that it would be better to place it on the north side of the central runway instead of the south side, on the ground that it would look better to have it frankly and distinctly away from the axis of the building than to have it very slightly off axis as proposed. If a tower must be erected the members of the Commission

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
OF FINE ARTS HELD ON FRIDAY,
July 26, 1918, at July 27, 1918,
and of the committee meeting held in New
York City at Mr. Platt's office

will be glad to discuss the details of the design further with the
Municipal Architect.

By direction of the Commission

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. Ridley,

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Charles Moore, Chairman; Secretary and Executive Officer.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia.
Washington, D. C.

ABC:MG.

J. Alden Weir;

Charles A. Platt;

Mr. Mitchell Kendall;

John Russell Pope;

and C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer of the Commission

present throughout the entire meeting.

Business was called to order at 9:30 a. m., and immediately pro-

ceeded to the business before it.

REPORT OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the
previous meeting held on May 10, 1918, were presented by the Secretary and

REPORT OF THE HOTEL DESIGNER: The Secretary laid before the Com-
mission a report showing a proposed design and locations of several nar-
rower than the National Capital Hotel Corporation proposed to erect on the
corner of the new Hotel Washington, and which were submit-
ted to the Commission by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. After
a discussion of the two entrances of the hotel in question, the designs
were referred to the Architect with the building itself, and out of harmony

Will be glad to discuss the details of the design further with the Municipal Architect.

By direction of the Commission

Respectfully,
(Signed) C. S. Riddle,
Colonel, U. S. Army.

Secretary and Executive Officer,
The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

ABC:MG.
The design for the Police Station, as shown on the drawings submitted to the Commission by the Municipal Architect, is approved. On account of the smaller relation of the building to those along Avenue, however, it is strongly urged that instead of permitting the corner to project beyond the building line it be kept back of the building line as far as practicable.

The design for the Municipal Building is approved except as to the treatment of the entrance, which the Commission believes to be much too strongly emphasized in view of the fact that the requirements of the plan show the entrance off-center of the building facade. A simple arch treatment, similar to that of the window above providing a fair light over the door, would probably solve the problem satisfactorily.

The proposed water tower at the Municipal Building is approved. It is the opinion of the Commission that the general effect of a tower of the size and in the location proposed would be aesthetically detrimental to the appearance of the building and of the entire block. It can be made possible to eliminate the tower, or by the use of a large sun-tank, or by the use of a large water-tank, it is strongly recommended that no tower be built. The reduction in floor space through the elimination of the tower would apparently, on economic grounds alone, offset and justify a considerable increase in rental cost with great from the aesthetic advantage. It is also to be noted that in order to place to avoid a tower the Commission believes that it would be better to place it on the north side of the central runway instead of the south side, on the ground that it would look better to have it centrally and directly away from the axis of the building than to have it at the side as proposed. If a tower must be erected the members of the Commission